

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following subtitle prior to the paragraph beginning line 5, page 1, as follows:

--PRIOR ART--

Please add the following figure descriptions immediately after line 13, page 4, as follows:

--Figure 9 is a detail along section line IX-??? of Figure 8.--

--Figure 10 is the detail of Figure 9 in a different operative stage.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 21, page 4, with the following amended paragraph:

--The plate [[1]] 2 presents four angularly equidistant identical radial slots 4. In each slot 4 there is slidably mounted a slide 5 (Figure 1) provided on its upper side with a double acting clamping jaw 6, i.e. able to lock a wheel rim 7, shown by dashed and dotted lines in Figure 3, from the inside or from the outside.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 2, page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

--With reference to Figures 2, 3 and 4, each slide 5 lowerly presents a threaded pin 55 (Figure 4), the axis of which intersects the longitudinal axis of the corresponding radial slot 4, and on which there is mounted a ~~bush~~ bushing 8 on which a pair of identical overlying connecting rods 9 are pivoted by way of an interposed spacer 10. The opposing ends of the connecting rods 9 are hinged to the corners of two identical overlying square plates 11 (Figure 2) mounted idly on the shaft 3, so that the two connecting rods 9 of each pair are disposed symmetrical about the direction in which the corresponding clamping jaw [[5]] 6 travels (Figure 2). The function of the plates 11 and connecting rods 9 is to link together all the clamping jaws which grip the edge of the wheel rim 7 such that they are always equidistant from the axis of the shaft 3 of the tire removal machine.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 18, page 5, with the following amended paragraph:

--Said two opposing slides 5 present lowerly (Figure 5) a descending central stem 13 which terminates with a ~~bush~~ bushing 14 provided with two opposing holes 140 and 141 perpendicular to the axis of the ~~bush~~ bushing 14. The ~~bush~~

bushing 14 is connected to the said positioner device 20, which comprises a crankshaft 15 provided with a crank 16, on the crankpin 17 ~~[[ef]]~~ on which the ~~bush~~ bushing 14 is mounted. The ends of the crankshaft 15 are connected respectively to said pneumatic cylinder-piston units 12.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 20, page 6, with the following amended paragraph:

--The operation of the invention is extremely simple. When the operator is to operate on large-dimension wheel rims, i.e. of diameter exceeding 20 inches, he sets the positioner device as shown in Figure 3. To achieve this, starting from the position of Figure 7 the operator extracts the pin 21 from the hole 141 and then rotates the ~~shaft~~ crankshaft 15 through 180 degrees in a clockwise direction to bring the pin 21 in front of the hole 140. At this point, by releasing the knob the pin penetrates into the hole and locks the clamping jaw in position. It should be noted that this operation can be performed on only one or on both of the positioner devices, depending on the diameter of the wheel rim on which to operate.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 12, page 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--The figures show two opposing slides presenting at their rear a descending central stem 50 which terminates with a ~~bush~~ bushing 51 (Figure 9) connected to the cylinder-piston units 12 via a positioner device 25.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 15, page 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--The positioner device 25 comprises a crankshaft 26 provided with a crank 27, on the crankpin 28 of which the ~~bush~~ bushing 51 is mounted. The ends of the crankshaft 26 are connected respectively to said pneumatic cylinder-piston units 12.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 3, page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

--Said locking means are associated with the ~~bush~~ bushing 51, they comprising a U-shaped latch 30, the base wall of which presents a rectangular aperture 300 to be received by and to translate on two flat portions 510 of the ~~bush~~ bushing 51. A pin 31 and a spring 32 are positioned in the arms of the latch 30. The pin 31 is normally received in a matching hole 33 in the crankpin 28 of the crank 27 by passing through a hole 34 in the ~~bush~~ bushing. The spring 32, the function of

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which is to maintain the pin 31 within the hole 33, is
positioned between said arm of the latch 30 and a
corresponding cavity 35 provided in the ~~bush~~ bushing wall.--